



Global climate change and wound care: Case study of an off-season vibrio alginolyticus infection in a healthy man

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Abstract:

Vibrio alginolyticus is a halophilic Gram-negative bacterium normally present in seawater. Vibrios are not capable of cutaneous invasion through intact skin and their isolation from extraintestinal sites is uncommon. However, interruptions in skin integrity (cuts or abrasions) can allow these bacteria to cause complicated skin and soft tissues infections. This case study describes the clinical assessment and management of a nonhealing traumatic wound, sustained in a coastal area during the winter months, in a healthy 70-year-old man. Culture results were positive for *V. alginolyticus*. Appropriate antibiotic treatment and topical wound care successfully resolved the infection. *V. alginolyticus* infections are usually benign; respond well to treatment, even with local therapy only; and tend to result from contact with warm ocean water. The clinical characteristics of the wound prompted a suspicion of a *Vibrio* infection even though the wound was sustained in the winter time and the patient did not have direct contact with ocean water. Although other case studies of *Vibrio* infections in the absence of direct contact with ocean water have been published, increased ocean temperatures due to global climate changes may explain the out-of-season infection in this patient. Clinicians should monitor the progression of wound healing and be prepared to modify treatment based on individual circumstances, especially in the case of unusual wound presentation, nonhealing, or a progressing wound infection.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19387097>
<http://www.o-wm.com/content/global-climate-change-and-wound-care-case-study-off-season-vibrio-alginolyticus-infection-a->

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Quality, Temperature

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : Italy

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Vibrios

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content